

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action identified above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, deleted and/or added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 2-41 are now pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 2-3 and 5-29 have been allowed in the application, as indicated within Item 3 on page 4 of the Office Action. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS DUE TO CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY

Unrelated to any prior art rejections (e.g., merely to clarify and/or refocus Applicant's claims, and to move the present application to allowance), Claim 4 has been rewritten into dependent form to depend from allowed Claim 2. Owing to dependency from an allowed claim, such claim should likewise be allowable over the prior art of record, and any prior art rejections regarding such claim have become

obsolete at this time. Accordingly, reconsideration and express written allowance of Claim 4 are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS DUE TO PARALLELISM

Unrelated to any prior art or rejections, presented herein are a set of system Claims 30-41 having substantial parallelism (*i.e.*, substantially similar features/limitations) with allowed device Claims 2-6, 9-13, 16 and 17, respectively (*i.e.*, 30/2, 31/3, 32/4, 33/5, 34/6, 35/9, 36/10, 37/11, 38/12, 39/13, 40/16 and 41/17). Owing to such parallelism, such claims should likewise be allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, consideration and express written allowance of such claims are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

The 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 4 based on Date *et al.* (US 6,229,586 B1) in view of Kanou *et al.* (US 6,219,120 B1) is respectfully traversed. However, Claim 4 now wholly depends from Claim 2 of the above-discussed allowed claims, and accordingly, the rejection has been rendered obsolete. Therefore, traversal arguments are not appropriate at this time, and any such discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s), claims and/or references are left for the future if/when appropriate.

As a result of all of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection are respectfully requested.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that all prior art rejected claims have now been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and/or rewritten to depend from allowed claims, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

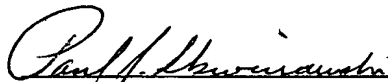
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Submitted concurrently herewith is a Petition for an appropriate extension of the shortened statutory period for response set by the Office Action. To whatever other extent is actually necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Also filed concurrently herewith is a Form PTO-2038 which includes authorization for payment of the requisite Petition and additional claims fee. Please charge any actual deficiency required for entry of this paper to ATSK Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Case No. 500.37406X00).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Form PTO-2038 (Fee Codes 1201/1202/1252)